

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: KAWABE, Yoshikazu, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1724

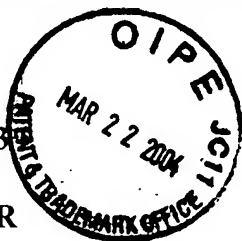
Serial No.: 10/728,883

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: December 8, 2003

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 9620

For: WATER HEATER



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 22, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached, together with a copy of the European Search Report issued in the corresponding European patent application.

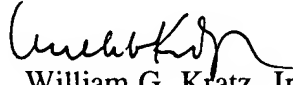
No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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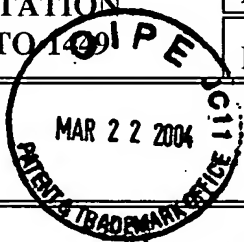


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: European Search Report  
PTO-1449  
References (10)

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> PTO 1401 P F	Atty. Docket No. <b>031310</b>	Serial No. <b>10/728,883</b>
	Applicant(s): <b>KAWABE, Yoshikazu, et al.</b>	
	Filing Date: <b>December 8, 2003</b>	Group Art Unit: <b>1724</b>



### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,558,273	Swenson et al.	9/1996			
_____	AB	5,020,320	Talbert et al.	6/1991			
_____	AC						

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AD	DE 198 23 670 A	11/25/99	Germany	No
_____	AE	WO 02 066384 A	8/29/02	WIPO	
_____	AF	DE 101 55 946 A	8/14/02	Germany	No
_____	AG	GB 906 440 A	9/19/62	UK	
_____	AH	EP 0 969 255 A	1/05/00	EPO	

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AI	PATENT ABSTRACT OF JAPAN, vol. 1996, no. 09, & JP 08 117745A, 14 May 1996 * abstract *
_____	AJ	ZEPPENFELD K: "Elektrochemische Wasserenthartung Als Alternative Zum Einsatz Von Kationenaustauschen" CHEMIE, INGENIEUR. TECHNIK, VERLAG CHEMIE GMBH. WEINHEIM, DE, vol. 72, no. 1/2, February 2000, pp. 101-102, 104-106 *paragraph 0001!*
_____	AK	RECKNAGEL, SPRENGER, SCHRAMEK: "Taschenbuch für Heizung + Klima Technik" 2001, pp 408-413, pp 912-915.
Examiner		Date Considered